

**COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION FOR GUIDED, OVERNIGHT,
BACKCOUNTRY TRIPS
OPERATING PLAN-ATTACHMENT B**

General Provisions

- 1) The CUA for Guided, Overnight Backcountry Trips allows the CUA holder to conduct guided overnight hiking, trips with an appropriate backcountry permit.
- 2) Day hiking, is an authorized use when associated with an overnight backcountry trip, A “Day Hiking” CUA must be obtained to conduct day trips not associated with an overnight trip.
- 3) Camping at “front country” campgrounds is not an authorized use.
- 4) CUA holders are encouraged to stay on designated trails. All off-trail travel must be reported in the monthly use reports (see reporting requirements). Specific areas may be closed to off-trail travel if impacts are noted.
- 5) CUA holders are limited to three groups per day. Maximum group size is 12, including guides. Each group must include at least one guide. Groups must be dispersed. Groups must not congregate. Group size is limited by the maximum occupancy of individual campsites.
- 6) The CUA holder shall be liable for damage to any property of the United States resulting from the use authorized hereunder.
- 7) Violation of any park regulation or terms of this permit may result in issuance of a violation notice, and/or suspension of privileges granted by this permit, or revocation of this permit.
- 8) Guides must meet clients outside of park concessioner’s land assignment and NPS Visitor Centers.

Administrative Requirements

- 9) Section 512 of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009, P.L. 111-24, 123 Stat. 1764-65, allows persons to possess firearms while in units of the National Park and National Wildlife Refuge Systems if they are possessed in compliance with applicable federal and state law.

The Following are specific requirements for operating in Yellowstone National Park:

- CUA holder employees may not possess firearms while on duty. The superintendent, in his or her sole discretion, may grant exceptions to this prohibition upon consideration of a written request from the CUA holder’s general manager with a thorough explanation of the basis of the request.
- CUA holders are responsible for determining how they will interpret and implement State firearm possession laws in regard to their clients. The CUA holder and/or its legal counsel should consult the applicable state attorney general’s office for access to relevant state firearms laws.
- The Concessioner must articulate to the Service how it will implement this law in regards to its operation. The policy should address the two issue points:
 1. The on-duty employees in Yellowstone Park, will be prohibited from firearm possession:
____ Yes ____ No

2. I will ____ will not _____ allow visitors to carry firearms while participating in this service.
- 10) A \$25 (non-refundable) fee will be charged for each backcountry permit issued. There is no fee for making permit amendments, i.e. changes in the itinerary, campsites, dates, or number of people. No additional fee will be charged for cancellations unless the cancellation is made after the scheduled start date of the trip. An additional \$25 will be charged if a permittee fails to contact the Central Backcountry Office to cancel a trip/permit prior to the scheduled starting date. Permittees will be billed for backcountry permit fees at the end of the operating season.

Staffing and Employment

- 11) At a minimum, one guide on each trip must be currently certified in standard first aid and CPR and carry a first aid kit. Wilderness First Aid or Wilderness First Responder certification is recommended. A written list of guides and dates of standard first-aid certification must be provided to the Concessions Management Office prior to the beginning of the operational season. Copies of first-aid cards need not be submitted.
- 12) Guides must be at least 18 years of age and trained in basic safety, resource protection, Leave No Trace principles, park rules and regulations and in the requirements of the CUA terms and conditions. Leave No Trace certification is recommended.
- 13) One guide on each trip must have previous, relevant outdoor experience including previous experience on the trails and/or lakes they are guiding.
- 14) The guide for any trip, within the park, must have a basic knowledge of map reading, and must have a topographic map for the area of their trip. It is recommended the guide have a compass and knowledge of compass use. A GPS is recommended.

15)

Operational Requirements

- 16) While in Yellowstone's backcountry, the CUA holder or guide shall remain with their clients for the duration of the trip.
- 17) A Backcountry Use Permit is required for overnight backcountry use and is available under the terms and conditions stipulated by the Central Backcountry Office.
- 18) Backcountry permit reservation procedures, terms, and conditions are reviewed and revised annually. There are limits on the number of campsites which may be occupied on a nightly basis by commercial users and there are limits on the annual occupancy of individual campsites by a single CUA. Having a CUA does not guarantee that backcountry campsites will be available.
- 19) CUA holders may use only designated backcountry campsites. During the winter, camping may be permitted outside of designated campsites. CUA holders may not exceed campsite limitations for the number of people allowed at a campsite.
- 20) Multiple groups in the same area must be equipped to camp, cook, and travel independently. Multiple groups are not permitted to congregate in a single campsite if the overall group size exceeds the campsite size limit.

- 21) "Foot travel in all thermal areas and within the Yellowstone Canyon between the Upper Falls and Inspiration Point must be confined to boardwalks or trails that are maintained for such travel and are marked by official signs." 36 CFR, Ch1, se. 7.13(i) No off-trail travel is allowed; stay on designated boardwalks and trails.
- 22) The CUA holder must ensure that all clients and guides stay at least 100 yards from bears and wolves. A distance of 25 yards is required from bison, elk and other animals. Regardless of any distance, if any wild animal changes its behavior due to your group's presence, you are too close.
- 23) The CUA holder or guide must provide all clients with an orientation prior to the trip which emphasizes safety, camping in bear habitat, Leave No Trace principles, park rules and regulations, and the nature, demands and dangers of the trip.
- 24) The CUA holder is responsible for ensuring that all clients are safely equipped and properly clothed prior to the trip.
- 25) Each guide must carry a minimum of one can of bear spray. Bear spray for clients is recommended.
- 26) CUA holders must abide by the Food Storage and Food Sanitation Guidelines found in Appendix A .
- 27) For further backcountry guidelines and regulations, please refer to the information provided in "Beyond Road's End" available in any Backcountry Office.
- 28) The CUA holder must provide all visitor services in a manner that is consistent with and supportive of the interpretative goals and objectives of the park.
- 29) For more information see the Beyond Road's End video on the following web page:
<http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountrytripplanner.htm>
- 30) *For winter guided trips:*
 - All guides shall carry a basic first aid kit suitable for backcountry emergencies. Suggested items include 1 roll of two-inch medical tape, 1 roll of two-inch gauze, 1 two-inch ace bandage, 2 triangular bandages, 2 two-inch compresses, 6 four-inch compresses, 1 emergency blanket and several pairs of disposable gloves. Hot beverages, extra clothing, repair kit, and ensolite sitting pads should also be included.
 - Guides will ensure that clients are properly attired for the current and forecasted weather conditions. Routes will be determined based on clients' abilities and desires.

Reporting requirements

- 31) All accidents must be reported to a ranger as soon as possible.
- 32) Information on all human illnesses (employees or clients) will be reported immediately to the Concessions Management Division at (307) 344-2271. This information will be evaluated by the United States Public Health Service representative to determine whether outbreaks could be associated with contaminated water, food, or other adverse environmental conditions. A suspected outbreak of human illness is two or more persons with common symptoms that could possibly be associated with contaminated water or food sources or other adverse environmental conditions.
- 33) The CUA holder will provide to the Concessions Management Office a monthly report indicating the date, number of visitors guided, and locations visited for the preceding month of operation. For off-

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trail travel, specific written descriptions are preferred and/or by UTM. Reports must be received no later than the end of the following month.

I have read and agree to the Overnight Backcountry Trip conditions. I hereby confirm that the above conditions will be reiterated to all guides associated with this business.

CUA Holder's Signature

Date

Title

Company Name

Return this page along with the application for a Commercial Use Authorization.